

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 09928 241110Z

44

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W

----- 020323

R 241032Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6475

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 9928

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, UNRWA, JO, LE

SUBJ: TALK WITH UNRWA COMMISSIONER GENERAL SIR JOHN RENNIE

1. RENNIE CALLED ON AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 24. EXPLAINED CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING UNRWA MOVE HEADQUARTERS FROM BEIRUT. PRESENT PLAN IS TO RELOCATE IN AMMAN BY STAGES. INITIAL GROUP OF SENIOR UNRWA SUPPLY AND FINANCIAL OFFICIALS WILL MOVE TEMPORARILY TO VIENNA TO EMPTY SPACE IN UNIDO ANNEX WHILE EDUCATION AND HEALTH OFFICIALS ARE MOVING TO AMMAN. SPACE FOR OFFICES HAS BEEN LOCATED WITH GOJ HELP IN TWO VACATED OFFICE BUILDINGS RENTED BY GOJ AND PHILADELPHIA HOTEL. TRANSFER OF ENTIRE STAFF WILL TAKE 3 OR 4 MONTHS. HOUSING FOR 70 INTERNATIONAL STAFF AND UP TO 350 PALESTINIANS WILL BE SERIOUS PROBLEM. IN MEANTIME SIR JOHN WILL SHUTTLE BETWEEN VIENNA, AMMAN, AND BEIRUT IN ORDER TO KEEP WORK MOVING. HE HAS NO FIRM JUDGEMENT ON SIZE OF ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES INCURRED BY MOVE.

2. ON THE POLITICAL ASPECTS, HE HAS SEEN PRIME MINISTER RIFAI WHO HAS WELCOMED MOVE. (MINISTER OF RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT SUBHI AMIN AMR (RESPONSIBLE FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS) ASSURED AMBASSADOR LAST EVENING THAT GOJ WELCOMED MOVE FOR REASONS BOTH OF PRESTIGE AND IMPROVED CONTACT WITH UNRWA HEADQUARTERS). SIR JOHN SAID HE TALKED WITH KARAME AND EXPLAINED MOVE AS TEMPORARY BUT REQUIRED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 AMMAN 09928 241110Z

IN ORDER TO ALLOW UNRWA HEADQUARTERS TO FUNCTION WHICH THEY

HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DO IN BEIRUT FOR SOME TIME. SAID HE HAD ALSO INFORMED PLO AND THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS ALTHOUGH HE IS CLEARLY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE PLO BACKLASH. SIR JOHN SAID HE IS IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH UNSYG TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS, AND CAUTIONS THAT HE HAS NOT RECEIVED OR MADE FINAL DETERMINATIONS ON MOVE AND THEREFORE IS AVOIDING ANY PUBLICITY, ALTHOUGH Wafa had asked for permission to publicize the move. GOJ ALSO TOLD OF THE TEMPORARY SHIFT OF SOME EMPLOYEES TO VIENNA AS A STEPPING STONE OPERATION BETWEEN BEIRUT AND AMMAN.

3. SIR JOHN HAD NOT DECIDED WHAT WOULD EVENTUALLY HAPPEN TO ADVISORY COMMISSION, BUT ASSUMED MEETINGS WHEN HELD WOULD TAKE PLACE IN AMMAN.

AS SUGGESTED RECENTLY BY EMBASSY BEIRUT, AMMAN THROUGH ITS REGULAR CONTACTS WITH UNRWA HERE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW SITUATION. SUGGEST THERE BE NO FORMAL TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES TO EMBASSY AMMAN UNTIL UNRWA HEADQUARTERS OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED HERE AND DECISIONS MADE ON ADCOM MEETINGS AT WHICH TIME WE WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY BEIRUT. PICKERING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF, PALESTINIANS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975AMMAN09928
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750447-0248
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751213/aaaaakux.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALK WITH UNRWA COMMISSIONER GENERAL SIR JOHN RENNIE
TAGS: SREF, JO, LE, UNRWA, (RENNIE, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006